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December 1, 2004
Marine Fisheries Advisory

LOBSTER ADDENDUM VI HEARING ON DECEMBER 7TH

Marine Fisheries will host a hearing on Tuesday, December 7th, to collect comment on Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. Below is an advisory from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission containing further details on the Addendum. The meeting will begin at 7PM at the Best Western in Fall River (360 Airport Rd).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 1, 2004

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**Draft Addendum VI to the American Lobster Plan Available for Public Comment
Massachusetts and Rhode Island to Hold Hearings in Early December**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission announces the release of Draft Addendum VI to the American Lobster Plan for public comment. This Addendum proposes modifications to the Lobster Conservation Management Area 2 (LCMA 2) effort control plan outlined in Addendum IV.

In December 2003, the Commission's American Lobster Board passed Addendum IV, establishing an effort control plan for LCMA 2 (inshore southern New England). Since passage of the Addendum, the Board has outlined several concerns with the plan, including the inability of several jurisdictions to implement portions of the plan and the initial trap allocation scheme. In addition, preliminary analysis of the impacts of the proposed trap allocation scheme indicates it is ineffective at controlling trap growth over current levels.

Draft Addendum VI proposes withdrawing the Addendum IV effort control plan except for two points – a prohibition on issuance of any new permits for Area 2 and the eligibility period for participation in the fishery. It also directs all jurisdictions with Area 2 permit holders and the Area 2 LCMT to develop a new effort control plan, which caps effort at or near current levels with the potential to adjust the levels based on the outcome of the upcoming stock assessment.

Public hearings will be held in the following locations.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Tuesday, December 7, 2004; 7 PM
Best Western in Fall River
360 Airport Road
Fall River, MA
Contact: Dan McKiernan at 617/626-1536

Rhode Island Division of Fish & Wildlife
Monday, December 13, 2004; 6 PM
University of Rhode Island, Bay Campus
Corless Auditorium
South Ferry Road

Narragansett, RI
Contact: Tom Angell at 401/423-1931

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of the Draft Addendum are available via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until 5 PM, January 7, 2004, and should be forwarded to Carrie Selberg, American Lobster FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org. For more information, please contact Carrie Selberg at (202) 289-6400 or cselberg@asmfc.org.